

The Honorable Mike Enzi
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
379 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Yarmuth
Chair, House Budget Committee
402 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steve Womack
Ranking Member, House Budget Committee
2412 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Enzi, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Yarmuth, and Ranking Member Womack:

We the undersigned national, state, and local organizations support significant cuts in funding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the agencies behind President Trump's harmful detention, deportation and border militarization regime.

We are disappointed by the funding increases in the Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations Bill and call upon Congress to commit to reducing funding for this administration's white nationalist border militarization and immigration enforcement policies. Taxpayer dollars should be spent on critical programs that make our communities strong and vibrant such as education, healthcare, green infrastructure, and housing rather than fueling abusive agencies that terrorize communities and separate families.

The Trump Administration showed the depths of its cruelty toward immigrant communities in fiscal year 2018. Just at our southern border, Border Patrol agents have forcibly [separated thousands of families](#), [tear-gassed asylum seekers](#) including toddlers, and regularly flouted international law by [denying the right to seek asylum](#) at the border. This abuse is happening despite the fact that the [total number of border apprehensions](#) are at the lowest point in decades and each Border Patrol agent apprehends, on average, fewer than 2 people a month. Deplorable conditions and inadequate medical care in border facilities also contributed to the [tragic deaths of two young children](#), Jakelin Caal Maquin and Felipe Alonzo-Gomez. The border wall has a devastating toll on border communities, wildlife and the environment. President Trump's declaration of a national emergency shows the administration's dedication to fear mongering around a manufactured crisis that is built on racist lies and disregard for U.S. and international law.

ICE has continued to grow its vast network of over 200 detention centers, perfecting the agency's [multi-year tactic](#) of overspending its appropriated funds and then repeatedly demanding that Congress bail it out with increased funding for the next year. This gradual ramp up resulted in a historic high in mid-March, of over [50,000 individuals](#) jailed by ICE each day. As ICE expands, more people are dying in ICE custody because of [medical neglect](#), [abuse](#), and a total [lack of concern](#) for the value of immigrant lives. ICE also continues to [target parents](#) of unaccompanied children, ramp up [workplace raids](#), [collude with USCIS](#) to detain people attending biometrics appointments, and [arrest people at courthouses](#) all in an attempt to terrorize communities and force them into the shadows.

We are deeply disappointed with the passing of the [2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) because it increases funding to both ICE and CBP, including a 12% increase for immigration detention and \$1.375 billion for more border wall, and fails to rein in the agencies' ability to overspend and siphon money from other accounts. This increase in funding is wholly undeserved due to both agencies' track records of harmful policies, abuse, and mismanagement. As such, this increase in funding is tacit approval of this administration's attacks on immigrant communities across the country and those newly arriving at our borders and ports of entry.

As we look forward to fiscal year 2020, we urge Members of Congress to view the budget as a moral document that reflects our priorities and values as a nation. Congress must invest in programs and agencies that uphold our shared values of dignity and justice and divest from programs and agencies that flout those values at every opportunity. It is unacceptable to claim support for immigrant communities while continuing to grow the already inflated budgets for ICE and CBP.

We, the undersigned organizations, call on you to demonstrate bold leadership and commit to reducing funds to ICE and CBP for fiscal year 2020.

Signed,

National Organizations:

Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
Alianza Americas
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Popular Democracy

Christian Community Development Association
Church World Service
Conference of Superiors of Men (Catholic)
Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces
Detention Watch Network
Daily Kos
Densho
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)
Dominicans of Sinsinawa
Earth Justice
EqualVoteLocal
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Faith in Action
Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement
Free Migration Project
Freedom for Immigrants
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Fuerza Mundial Global
GreenLatinos
Habonim Dror North America
Health Care for America Now (HCAN)
Health Justice Innovations, LLC
Hope Border Institute/Instituto Fronterizo Esperanza
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Hub
Indivisible
Jobs With Justice
Justice Strategies
Latin America Working Group
LATINOJUSTICE PRLDEF
MomsRising
MoveOn
Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC)
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Justice for Our Neighbors
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Network for Arab American Communities
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
NETWORK Lobby
New Progressive Alliance
New Sanctuary Coalition

Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Service Employees International Union
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
Shut Tornillo Down Coalition
Sierra Club
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team
Sisters of Mercy South Central Community
Socialist Alternative
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
South East Asian Faith Initiative
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Southern Border Communities Coalition
Southern Poverty Law Center
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The Workmen's Circle
Trans empowerment project
UltraViolet
UndocuBlack Network
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United We Dream
Uri L'tzedek
Woodstock Institute
Workplace Fairness
Yemeni American Merchants Association - YAMA

State and Local Organizations:

NW Philadelphia Immigrant Action and Mobilization
Adelante Alabama Worker Center
Adhikaar
Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention in the Chihuahuan
Desert
AFSC Colorado
Alianza Sacramento
Amend Law LLC
American Gateways
Arab American Association of New York
Arizona Jews for Justice
Asian American Organizing Project
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA
Asian Counseling and Referral Service

Asian Pacific Community in Action
AVIDCD
Border Patrol Victims Network
Buddhist Cohort-Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC, Inc.
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) DC
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America -CRLN
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Church of Our Saviour/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador
Church Women United in New York State
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Comunidades Unidas en una Voz
Detained Migrant Solidarity Committee
DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network
Don't Separate Families
DRUM: Desis Rising Up and Moving
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance Immigration Justice
Action Team
El Refugio
Eleven 11 Consulting
End Domestic Abuse WI
End Family Separation and Detention
Faith in action Bay Area
Faith in Indiana
Faith in New York
Faith in Texas
First Friends of NJ & NY
Florence Area Democratic Club
Friends of Broward Detainees
Friends of Miami-Dade Detainees
Georgia Detention Watch
Granite State Organizing Project
H-CAN Immigration and Refugee action group
HANA Center
HIAS Pennsylvania
Hilton Head for Peace
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Justice Action Group, First Unitarian Portland
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Immigration Committee, Congregation Hakafa
Indivisible for Immigration
Indivisible Vashon
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Institute of Chicax Psychology
Inter-faith Coalition on Immigration

Interfaith Welcome Coalition
ISALAH
Japanese American Citizens League - Seattle
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
Kids for College
La Union Hace La Fuerza
Laredo Immigrant Alliance
Latinos Unidos Siempre
Legal Services for Children
Lents Strong Housing
Lents Strong Housing
Mainers for Accountable Leadership
Make the Road NY
Make the Road PA
Massachusetts Communities Action Network
Migrant Center for Human Rights
Migrant Justice / Justicia Migrante
MinKwon Center for Community Action
Mission Presbytery Immigration Task Force-Texas
Missouri Faith Voices, A Faith in Action Federation
Multnomah Friends Meeting (Quakers)
Network Against Racism and Islamophobia-Portland
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
New York Immigration Coalition
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
NM CAFE
North West Philly Immigration and Mobilization
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights
OneAmerica
Orange County Congregation Community Organization
Pangea Legal Services
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
Pittsburgh LCLAA
Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC)
Portland Jobs With Justice
Public Counsel
Queens Neighborhoods United
Quixote Center, Inc.
RAICES
Reformed Church of Highland Park
Rouser
Rural and Migrant Ministry
Rural Organizing Project
Sacramento Area Congregations Together
Shut Down Etowah

South Asian Workers' Center
South Texas Human Rights Center
St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)
STEP UP! Sacramento
Suneater
Together Colorado
Trinity Episcopal Church
United Valley Interfaith Project
UnLocal
Vashon - Maury SURJ ~ Showing Up for Racial Justice
VELA
Vermont Interfaith Action
Voz Workers' Rights Education Project
Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project
Wayne Action for Racial Equality

cc: Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger